

## Message Text

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16  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11

OMB-01 /071 W  
----- 041982

P R 040854Z FEB 76  
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7510  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ECON, EFIN, PINT  
SUBJECT: DUTCH CABINET TROUBLES

REF: THE HAGUE 0551

1. DUTCH CABINET HAS STILL NOT BEEN ABLE TO SORT OUT ITS DIFFI-  
CULTIES WITH RESPECT TO THE ISSUE OF WORKERS COUNCILS. THERE  
WERE INDICATIONS TUESDAY, FEB. 3, THAT COMPROMISE HAD BEEN REACHED.  
REPORTEDLY ADVANCED BY CATHOLIC JUSTICE MINISTER VAN AGT,  
PROPOSED SOLUTION WOULD HAVE INVOLVED ESTABLISHMENT OF LEGAL  
REGIME UNDER WHICH WORKERS COUNCILS WOULD FIRST MEET WITH  
MANAGEMENT TO DECIDE WHICH ISSUES WOULD SUBSEQUENTLY BE LEFT FOR  
WORKERS COUNCILS TO BE HANDLED WITHOUT MANAGEMENT PARTICIPATION.  
THIS SOLOMON-LIKE SUGGESTION WOULD HAVE MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR ALL  
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CONCERNED TO CLAIM THEY HAD GOTTEN THEIR WAY; LABOR AND THE PPR

WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TELL THEIR CONSTITUENTS THAT THEY HAD MADE GOOD ON 1972 ELECTION PROMISE, AND KVP AND ARP CONFESSIONAL PARTIES WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TELL THEIR SUPPORTERS THAT THEY HAD PRESERVED STATUTORY ROLE FOR MANAGEMENT IN WORKERS COUNCILS' DECISIONS.

2. COMPROMISE ALONG THESE LINES, HOWEVER, SEEMS TO HAVE BECOME UNSTUCK LATE FEB 3, AND LAST NIGHT CABINET MEMBERS WERE REPORTED TO BE BUSY CONSULTING WITH THEIR PARLIAMENTARY AND PARTY COLLEAGUES. CABINET WILL MEET AGAIN MORNING FEB 4. THIS TIME FOCUS OF DISCUSSION WILL BE NOT SO MUCH ON ISSUE OF WORKERS COUNCILS AS SUCH BUT LIKELY TO CENTER MORE ON COMPARING FEELINGS ABOUT THE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF LETTING THIS ISSUE COME TO A HEAD IN PARLIAMENT, WHICH COULD LEAD TO DOWNFALL OF THE GOVERNMENT. MEMBERS OF THE CABINET ARE SAID TO CONTINUE TO ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO HOLDING THE GOVERNMENT TOGETHER. PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL IN BRIEF TELEVISION INTERVIEW LAST NIGHT, FEB. 3, LEFT IMPRESSION THAT CABINET WAS PREPARED TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS. NOW THAT PARLIAMENTARY PARTY LEADERSHIP HAS BECOME MORE INVOLVED, HOWEVER, IT MAY BE THAT CABINET HAS LOST SOME CONTROL ABOUT HOW THIS ISSUE WILL BE PLAYED OUT.

GOULD

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LABOR RELATIONS, CABINET MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 FEB 1976  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** ECON, EFIN, PINT  
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